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## The soaring cost of health: No quick cure



In a three-part study, *li Monthly* will examine the cost and number of beneficiaries of each of the different public administrations pertaining to hospitalization. This edition will begin with a look at medical care at the expense of the Ministry of Public Health.

Contracts between the Ministry of Public Health and private hospitals

The Ministry of Public Health enters into contracts with a number of private hospitals to provide care and medical treatment for Lebanese citizens who do not receive coverage by any other government organization. Beneficiaries of this arrangement are estimated to number approximately one million.

Lebanon's healthcare system is made up of several bodies and government organizations which cover the hospitalization of the Lebanese people. These include the National Social Security Fund, the Civil Servants Cooperative, the Ministry of Public Health and military forces hospitalization (Internal Security Forces, State Security, General Security, the army).

In addition, there are several different mutual fund programs such as the fund for judges and judges assistants, the fund for teachers of the Lebanese University, the fund for Members of Parliament and other civil servants.

In the absence of a clear and defined health policy, this method has led to a considerable increase in the number of private hospitals over the last twenty years. In addition, critics contend that the Ministry's hospital selection policy has been based on interests and political and religious considerations, rather than on medical needs.

In spite of all these organizations and the huge cost shouldered by the Treasury, over half of the Lebanese population does not receive any health coverage.

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## Our Company

When it comes to providing the right information, Information International possesses the dedication and capabilities to explore options and build an accurate perspective. As a leading Beirut-based research and consulting firm, Information International was founded in 1995 with the awareness that a vacuum exists in the fields of survey research, database collection and analysis in the Arab World, and particularly in the Middle East.

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